Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2004
10:00 am
State Alternate Site
350 S. 900 W.
Richfield, Utah

Attendance

Steve Proctor	UCAN		Al Higgs	State of Utah, ITS
Randy Auman	Logan City Police Dept		Omar Issa	State of Utah, ITS
Barry Bradley	Sanpete County		Greg Harwood	Salina PD
Bryan Low *	Logan City Police Dept		Carl McCormick	Motorola
Doug Chandler	State of Utah, ITS		Kathy Johnson	State DPS
Floyd Ritter	State of Utah, ITS		Johnny Evans	Richfield PD
Boyd Webb	State of Utah, ITS		Jeff Nielsen	Sevier County
Jon Tait	Motorola			* Attended via phone conference.

Introductions

Steve Proctor welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were made for those attending in person as well as those on the phone. Steve noted that this would be the last educational meeting of the Region 41 RPC. We will now start drafting the actual Regional Plan.

Approval of Minutes

The previous minutes were approved without change.

Purpose of the Region 41 RPC

Randy Auman gave a PowerPoint and overview of the purposes of the Region 41 RPC. This PowerPoint can be found in the "documents' section of the 700RPC Web Site:
http://uwin.utah.gov/700mhzrpc/700mhzrpc.html#

4.9 GHz Subcommittee Report

Tim Cornia gave an overview of the 4.9 GHz Regional Plan. The plan basically addresses database management (who is using 4.9 Frequencies) and dispute resolution. It looks like LA County is moving forward to purchase 4.9GHz equipment.

Utah was the only state to submit a 4.9 Plan. The FCC has put a stay on accepting/approving 4.9 plans pending resolution of standards. Tim pointed out that there is very little product available, but point-point equipment is available and is beginning to be deployed now.

The 4.9 GHz Plan is available on the UWIN 700RPC Web Site.

Interoperability Subcommittee

Floyd Ritter chairs the 700 Interoperability Subcommittee. Floyd just returned from Baltimore where he attended the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) conference. Floyd pointed out that training is a continuing problem with trunked systems and conventional systems alike. A standard for channel programming is essential. Various agencies with differing channel plans make interoperability difficult. There was a kick-off meeting of the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) on September 13. There was a lack of attendance in that first meeting and Floyd urged everyone to participate in the SIEC when the next meeting is announced.

Interoperability will be increasingly requisite as federal grants are requested in the future. We need as much participation as possible to ensure whatever interoperability plans emerge have the support of agencies throughout the state.

Steve Proctor asked Salina and Richfield PD representatives what would facilitate interoperability for their needs. They felt some level of commonality between the channels/names in various agency radios would be helpful. Randy Auman said Cache County recently went through a successful region-wide process of channel programming.

Steve asked for ways to ensure involvement happens with local and tribal agencies. Tim Cornia said we've probably done all we can to get the word out. Kathy Johnson suggested presentations should be made to the dispatch centers.

Tim noted that the decisions we are making now will probably not impact anyone in the room before they retire (except for the data channels).

Implementation and Technology Subcommittee

Boyd Webb and Jeff Dial co-chair the Implementation and Technology Subcommittee. Boyd Webb gave a brief overview of the 800MHz meeting process that happened a decade ago. Now that there are 800MHz radios used on the Wasatch Front, an 800MHz radio user will have serious interoperability issues when trying to communicate with that radio in rural Utah. With the creation of the new public safety spectrum, the FCC's long-term vision was to consolidate all public safety agencies into one 700/800MHz band. All that really happened was an additional band was added to the mixture of interoperability challenges.

Boyd displayed a spreadsheet showing the new 700MHz spectrum and how the channels are segregated into various use types. The Implementation and Technology Subcommittee met yesterday and unanimously supported a plan wherein each of Utah's 29 counties will be pre-assigned 10 channels (290 of 616 in the general block). We had to preselect channels for our border counties so other regions (states) would know what channels not to use. But the subcommittee went ahead and pre-assigned channels to the rest of the counties. The remaining 60% (approx) will be set-aside in a reserve pool, where agencies can apply for them on an as-needed basis. Special blocks of 20 channels will be set aside for regional deployment as needed. So applications for one or two channels will not come out of those blocks of 20. Pre-assigned

frequencies in one area can be re-assigned to another distant area in order to stay out of the 20-channel channel blocks.

There will be a five-person coordination team that will accept agencies applications for channel use. In order to cover operational costs, there will be a fee for processing the coordination. The fee amount has not yet been determined, but it will be in-line with other frequency coordination fees.

The NCC recommended that pre-allocations be made based on population rather than geography. Back east, that works OK, but in the rural areas of Utah the largest counties frequently have the smallest populations, so counties such as San Juan would never qualify for enough channels to cover their area. Some smaller rural counties wouldn't make the 10,000 minimum for a single frequency. The coordination team will be entrusted to issue channels prudently.

Steve Proctor suggested that Tribes should be pre-allocated channels. There was general agreement that this should be done. They could be handled similar to any county pre-assignments.

The RPC accepted the subcommittee's recommendation as presented.

Mobile Data Subcommittee
Bryan Low is the subcommittee chair for Region 41 Mobile Data. Bryan presented a document outlining a recommendation from his subcommittee. Although initially his subcommittee was leaning towards pre-allocating data channels, the relatively small number of available channels made this option less attractive.

Instead, the subcommittee's recommendation is that agencies should work together in implementing mobile data solutions, and would follow a method similar to the Implementation and Technology's to respond to requests for channels on an as-needed basis. Requests will need to include detailed descriptions of the project, sharing agreements, and budgets. Applications would be approved on a first come first serve basis and allocations would be subject to recall if they were not used in an allotted time frame.

Make-up of the RPC 41 Coordination Committee
There was early discussion of having: (1) RPC Chair, (1) State, (1) County, (1) City, (1) At-Large. After some discussion it was decided that the coordination team/committee would not have such designations, but would be made up of (1) RPC Chair and (4) Others as appointed by the RPC. Steve stressed the need to retain at least one technical person that has a deep understanding of the technical issues involved with RF coordination.

RPC meetings will need to continue at least quarterly. Applications that have been reviewed can be brought before the RPC for approval.

Assignments

- Each of the subcommittee chairs have been asked to produce a draft in the next 45 days for comment so we can discuss them in 60 days at an RPC meeting.

- Randy Auman has already started re-writing the regional description.

- Steve Proctor will do administration section of the plan.

- Steve Proctor will write a letter to CAPRAD asking for access to the coordination database. Boyd recommended all five coordinators should have access.

Next URPC Meeting

Tuesday November 30, 2004
10:00 am
Public Safety Conference Room
Calvin Rampton Complex
4501 South 2700 West
Salt Lake